

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 03438 180815Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12
TRSE-00 DLOS-09 OES-09 /096 W
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P R 180645Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6163
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USNMR SHAPE
DIA WASHDC
/SECDEF WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3438

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PEPR, PINT, NO, UR
SUBJECT: UNAUTHORIZED LANDINGS BY SOVIET SHIPS

REF: OSLO 3392

1. THE OSLO PRESS HAS GIVEN SUBSTANTIAL FURTHER COVERAGE TO THE RECENT UNAUTHORIZED ENTRIES OF SOVIET SHIPS INTO NORWEGIAN HARBORS.
2. ACTENPOSTEN, LEADING CONSERVATIVE DAILY, IN AN JULY 15 ARTICLE, REPORTED THAT FONMIN FRYDENLUND RAISED THE QUESTION IN A CONVERSATION ON OTHER MATTERS WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OSLO 03438 180815Z

KIRICHENKO. THE NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT FRYDENLUND STRESSED THE GRAVITY OF THE VIOLATIONS AND MADE CLEAR THAT GON AUTHORITIES PRESUME THE USSR TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE NORWEGIAN REGULATIONS WHICH CONTAIN PROVISIONS FOR FINES AND IMPRISONMENT.

3. FYI ONLY. THE NEWSPAPER REPORTS DID NOT GIVE THE TEXT OF FRYDENLUND'S CAREFULLY DRAWN STATEMENT TO KIRICHENKO.

IN THAT STATEMENT FRYDENLUND STATED THAT SOVIET VESSELS MAY HAVE ACTED IN VIOLATION OF 1968 GON REGULATIONS CONCERNING NONMILITARY VESSELS ACCESS TO NORWEGIAN TERRITORY. HE SAID THAT HE ASSUMED SUCH REGULATIONS WERE WELL KNOWN TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND CAPTAINS AND THAT IN CASE OF VIOLATIONS ONE WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED FOR ACTION BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES, SOMETHING THAT WOULD HAVE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE CAPTAINS AND VESSELS. FRYDENLUND SAID THAT THE GON WILL STUDY REPORTS FROM POLICE AUTHORITIES. END FYI.

4. AFTENPOSTEN ALSO REPORTED A STATEMENT BY NORTH NORWAY MILITARY COMMANDER, LT. GEN. HUITFELDT. THE LATTER SAID THAT SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY IN THE AREA HAS BEEN INCREASED AND THE ADDITION OF ONE FRIGATE AND ONE TORPEDO BOAT IN THE DISTRICT, PROVIDE THE DEFENSE AUTHORITIES GREATER ABILITY TO INTERVENE IN THE EVENT OF FURTHER VIOLATIONS.

5. EDITORIALS IN NON-SOCIALIST PAPERS AFTENPOSTEN AND MORGENBLADET BOTH CRITICIZED THE FONMIN FOR TAKING SO LONG TO REACT. THE AFTENPOSTEN EDITORIAL RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE INCIDENTS BEING POSSIBLE SOVIET TESTS OF THE NORWEGIAN EFFECTIVENESS AND CONSISTENCY IN DEALING WITH SOVEREIGNTY IN THAT REGION. THE PAPER ALSO OPPOSED PROJECTED REDUCTIONS IN THE NORWEGIAN NAVY.

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PAGE 03 OSLO 03438 180815Z

6. COMMENT: THE GON HAS SOME BREATHING TIME NOW, PENDING THE RECEIPT AND EVALUATION OF THE POLICE REPORTS OF THE INCIDENTS. JUDGING FROM THE INITIAL PRESS REPORTS, AND THE PAUCITY OF OTHER NEWS EVENTS IN THIS SEASON, HOWEVER, IT IS PROBABLY THAT THE PRESS WILL CLOSELY MONITOR AND REPORT ON THE GON HANDLING OF THIS MATTER WITH THE USSR.
LERNER

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